

P. F. Barnes Conservation Area

Ten-Year Area Management Plan FY 2017-2026



Lisa D. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

11-7-16

Date

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PLANNING TEAM

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OZARK REGION

RCT Chair


Signature 10/19/2016
Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forest Management Chief


Signature 11/2/16
Date

OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** P. F. Barnes Conservation Area, # 6406
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1963
- **Acreage:** 120 acres
- **County:** Texas
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Statements of Purpose:**
 - A. Strategic Direction**
Manage to maintain and enhance natural communities, while also maximizing outdoor recreational opportunities.
 - B. Desired Future Condition**
The desired future condition of the P. F. Barnes Conservation Area (CA) is a mix of healthy forest and woodland natural communities..
 - C. Federal Aid Statement**
N/A

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

- I. Special Considerations**
 - A. Priority Areas:** Hamilton Creek/Upper West Piney Fisheries Priority Watershed
 - B. Natural Areas:** None
- II. Important Natural Features and Resources**
 - A. Species of Conservation Concern:** None observed.
 - B. Caves:** None known.
 - C. Springs:** None known.
- III. Existing Infrastructure**
 - One parking lot
 - One gate
 - One fishless pond (0.12 acres)
- IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations**
 - A. Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** None
 - B. Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

C. Easements: None

D. Cultural Resources Findings: Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (Department) Environmental Compliance Specialist. Managers should follow Best management Practices for Cultural Resources found in the Department Resource Policy Manual.

E. Endangered Species: None observed.

F. Boundary Issues: None

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain healthy forests and watershed.
- 2) Control invasive species.

Management Objective 1: Maintain healthy forests and watershed.

Strategy 1: Monitor regularly for any insect or disease issues. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Manage forest and other habitats, as recommended by the 2013 forest inventory. Practices may include, but are not limited to, timber harvests, forest thinning, prescribed burning, bush hogging, and plantings. (Forestry)

Strategy 3: Slowly convert the open areas back to forest. This can be accomplished by reducing the size of the open areas by allowing succession to reclaim portions of the area and over time, allow all of it to become forested.

Management Objective 2: Control invasive species.

Strategy 1: Survey for high priority invasive species (e.g., spotted knapweed, sericea lespedeza). (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Eradicate and/or control invasive species using appropriate techniques, as possible. (Forestry)

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Protect and maintain a healthy and stable watershed.

Management Objective 1: Protect and maintain a healthy and stable watershed.

Strategy 1: Ensure that best management practices are used by the Department or contractors that perform timber harvests or other services. Install best

management practices according to the *2014 Missouri Watershed Protection Practices* publication (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Encourage and increase outdoor recreational use and opportunities.
- 2) Provide a safe area for outdoor recreational use.

Management Objective 1: Encourage and increase outdoor recreational use and opportunities.

Strategy 1: Continue to maintain area that is safe and inviting to an array of outdoor users. (Forestry)

Strategy 2: Enforce statewide hunting and fishing regulations with routine patrols. (Protection)

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Continue to foster relations with neighboring landowners.
- 2) Maintain area infrastructure at current levels.
- 3) Consider land acquisition, when available.

Management Objective 1: Continue to foster relations with neighboring landowners.

Strategy 1: Continue open dialogue with all neighboring landowners. (All Divisions)

Management Objective 2: Maintain area infrastructure at current levels. (Forestry)

Strategy 1: Maintain area infrastructure in accordance with Department guidelines. (Forestry)

Lands Proposed for Acquisition:

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered.

MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

All strategies for this management plan are considered ongoing.

APPENDICES

Area Background:

The P. F. Barnes Conservation Area was donated July 24, 1963, by Dr. Broda O. Barnes, of Denver, Colorado, as an addition to our upland game program. There is one small fishless pond on the property. This area is a popular destination for hunting.

Current Land and Water Types:

Land/Water Type	Acres	% of Area
Forests and Woodland	116	97
Old Field/Open Land	4	3
Total	120	100

Public Input Summary:

The draft P. F. Barnes Conservation Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period May 1–31, 2016. The Missouri Department of Conservation received three comments from two respondents (Appendix A). The P. F. Barnes Conservation Area Planning Team carefully reviewed and considered these ideas as they finalized this document. A brief summary of public input themes, including how they were incorporated or why they were not, can be found below. Rather than respond to each individual comment, comments are grouped into general themes and are addressed collectively.

Department responses to themes and issues identified through the P.F. Barnes Conservation Area public comment period

Suggests notifying public prior to conducting large-scale prescribed burns.

Before conducting a prescribed burn, we notify local fire and law authorities by phone. In addition, we notify adjacent landowners. We have not conducted a prescribed burn on the P. F. Barnes Conservation Area in several years. Currently, there are no plans to burn any of the 120-acre area. We are maintaining early successional habitat by of bush hogging.

Suggests adding a fishing lake.

The P. F. Barnes Conservation Area Planning Team understands the desire for a large water impoundment. At this time, the Missouri Department of Conservation has no plans for impoundment construction statewide. The P. F. Barnes Conservation Area Planning Team will continue to look for ways to expand fishing opportunities on the area in the future.

Suggests allowing hunters to use vehicles on service roads during deer season in order to retrieve deer.

Service roads are non-public roads to allow staff access for resource management, maintenance, and emergency situations. We encourage hunters to use a handcart, quarter the deer in the field, or bring a friend to help haul out deer.

Suggests adding more conservation agents to patrol the area.

The number of conservation agents likely will not change. We rely heavily on the public to contact us when things of illegal nature are taking place. Please continue to contact our agents for wildlife violations. If you see other illegal activities you should contact local law enforcement. We patrol all of our conservation areas on a regular basis and increase those patrols during our major hunting seasons. Local contacts for Texas County can be found at <http://short.mdc.mo.gov/ZJf> or by contacting the Ozark Regional Office (417-256-7161).

Suggests posting the acreage of P. F. Barnes Conservation Area.

Field staff are required to follow signing guidelines set forth by the Department, which currently does not include acreage signs. We will look into possible alternatives, such as, developing a brochure that can be made available on the area. The public can access information about conservation areas at <https://nature.mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature/places>.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014). Missouri watershed protection practice recommended practices for Missouri forests: 2014 management guidelines for maintaining forested watersheds to protect streams. Jefferson City, MO: Conservation Commission of the State of Missouri.

Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: Topographic Map

Figure 3: Aerial Map

Figure 4: Land Cover Type Map

Additional Appendices:

Appendix A. P. F. Barnes Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Figure 1: Area Map

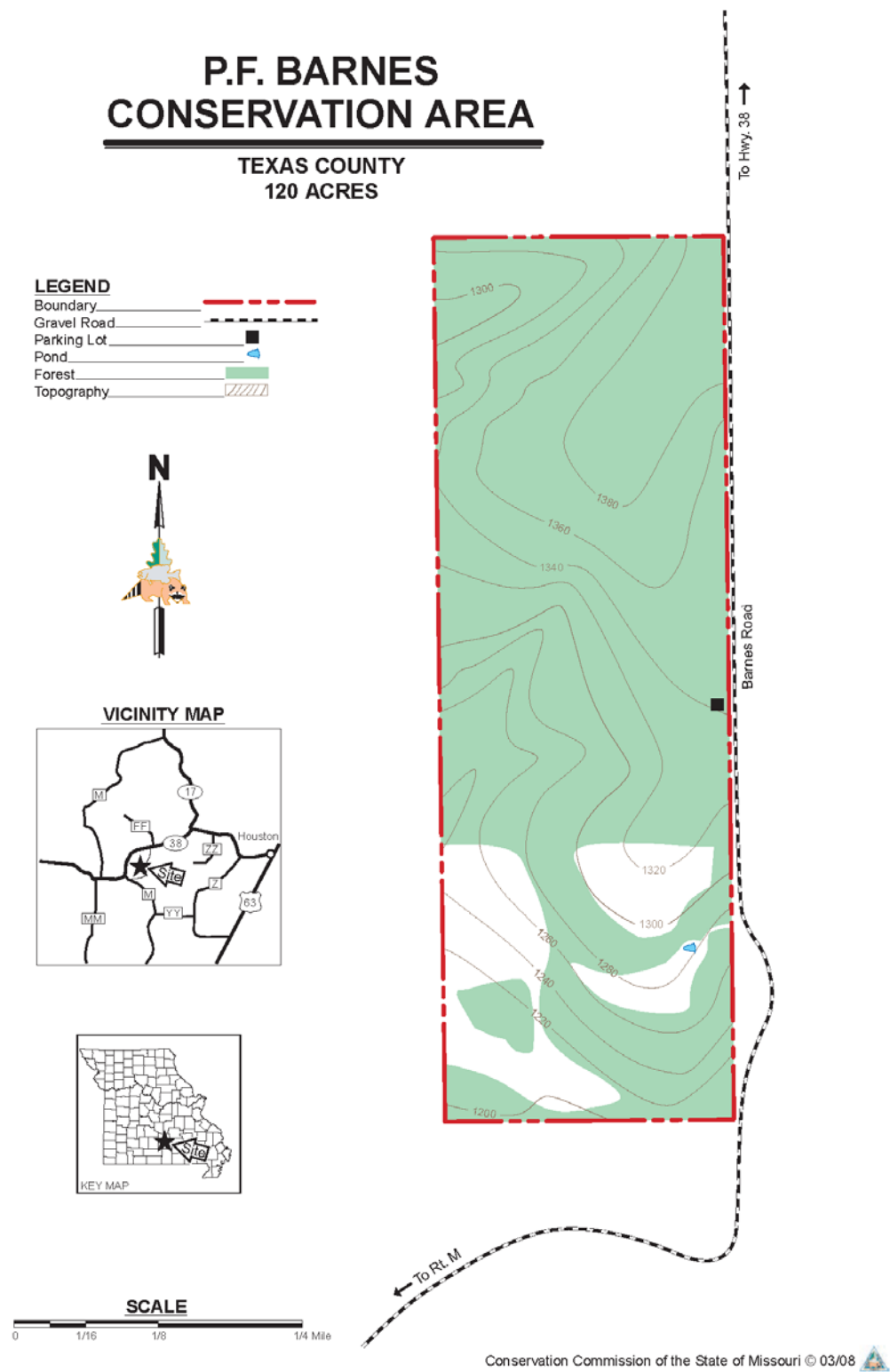


Figure 2: Topographic Map

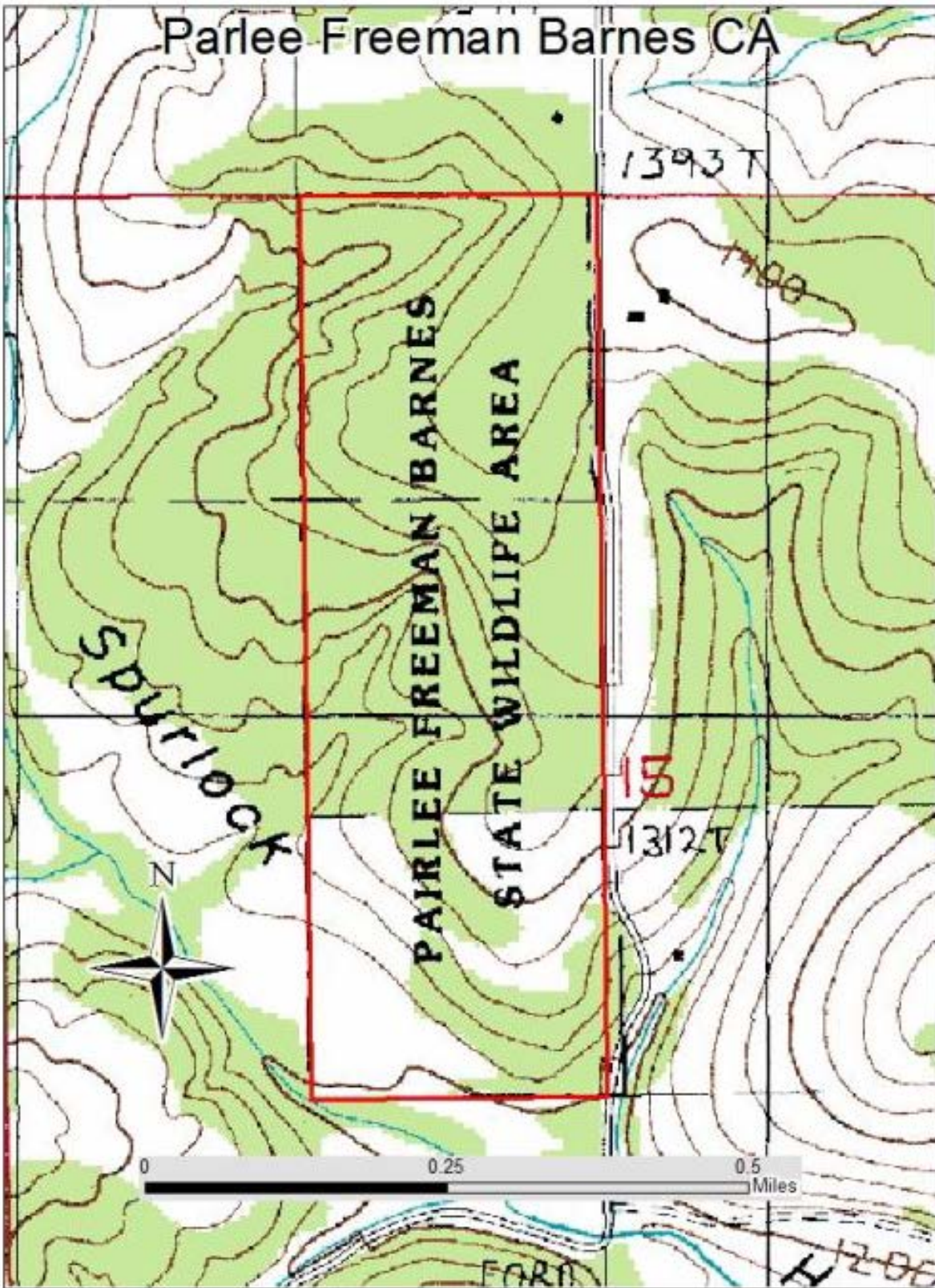
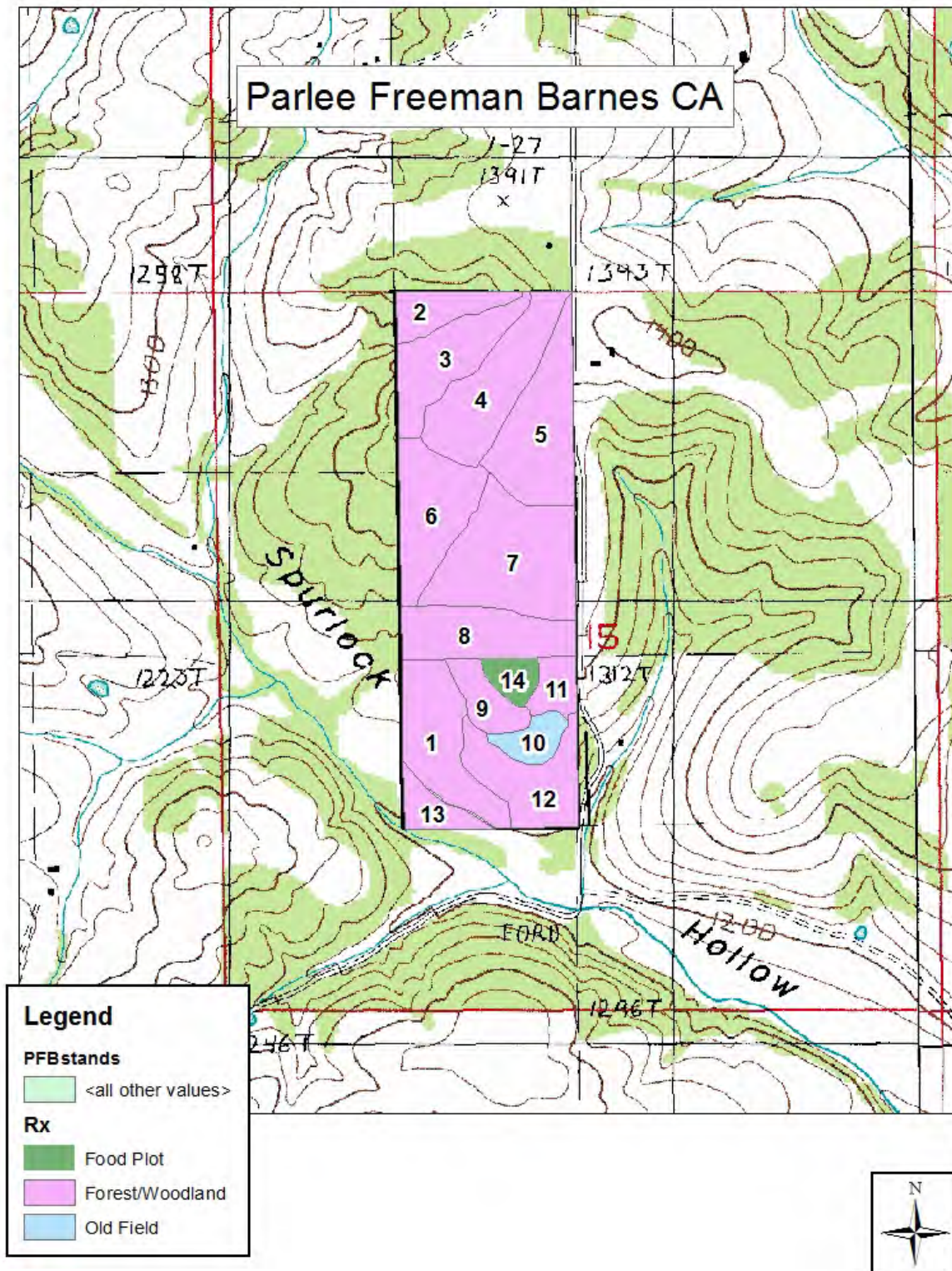


Figure 3: Aerial Map



Figure 4: Land Cover Type Map



Appendix A. P. F. Barnes Conservation Area Management Plan Public Comments

Received during public comment period (May 1-31, 2016):

I tried to open the area plans but was unable to do so.

I do not know what you are intending to do on this area but here are my recommendations for not only Barnes CA but all of the CA's which my family frequents in south-central MO. We recommend that the department build fishable lakes on ALL conservation areas. This will greatly reduce the fishing stress on lakes already managed by the department and provide many additional opportunities for citizens and visitors to MO.

We also recommend that the department open some of the service roads during the deer hunting seasons so that hunters can more easily retrieve game. The department could allow vehicles to only enter designated areas for the purpose of retrieving the deer and have to leave immediately after recovery.

We also recommend for ALL areas that the department increase the number of Conservation Agents by at least 100% and maybe 200%. We witness far too many wildlife violations. It makes us angry to know so many people are getting away with stealing game while we abide by every little regulation in the book. We've reported violations in the past only to never see any follow up due to there not being enough agents. We don't even bother calling anymore.

We also recommend that the department notify the public PRIOR to any large-scale burns on CA's. It is quite upsetting when you arrive at a Youth Turkey hunting area on opening morning only to discover the Department conducted a control burn of the entire area in the same week.

We could go on with many other recommendations however these are the biggest. Thanks for giving us an avenue to share our thoughts.

You should build a fishable lake on this property. The area which has recently been logged would be a choice location. The Conservation Department should build fishable lakes on ALL Conservation Areas. It would dramatically increase the opportunities as well as the value of these areas.

(Hardcopy Comment Received 5/31/2016): Post acreage on PF Barnes Conservation Area.